

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) ON EARLY INTERVENTION

MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, January 26, 2001
DoubleTree Hotel, SFO
Burlingame

ICC MEMBERS PRESENT

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair
Patricia Aguiar, DSS
Gwen Aldridge, DADP
Valerie Charlton, M.D., DHS
Arleen Downing, M.D.
Walter Olsen, Jr., Ed.D., CDE
Marie Kane Poulsen, Ph.D.
Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D.
Cheri Schoenborn, DDS

ICC MEMBERS ABSENT

Livia Faure-Gault
Nancy Lee, DOI
Martha Sanchez
Sharon Tettegah, Ph.D.

CALL TO ORDER

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ICC members, community representatives, staff, and members of the audience provided self-introductions. Dr. Peterson announced he had received the resignation of ICC Community Representative Gary Scott Johnson indicating he has a new work assignment. Dr. Peterson also stated that letters would be sent to those Community Representatives that have not been attending ICC meetings to determine if they are still interested in serving the ICC.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved and it was noted that there would be a video presentation as part of the Public Awareness Committee report.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER ICC MINUTES

Wally Olsen moved to approve the minutes with one correction as noted on page 14 in the last line of the report from the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, the word "services" replaces the words "their budget". The motion was seconded and carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Peterson referred to his message printed in the ICC packet and the continued need for outreach to the community. He stressed the importance of the presentation on foster care issues in Thursday's Committee of the Whole meeting and that discussion on this topic will continue at the next COTW meeting in March. Dr. Peterson thanked all the committees for their hard work.

STAFF REPORT

Cheri Schoenborn reported the staff changes in the Community Program Section of the Prevention and Children Services Branch. Ben Traverso, Section Chief and Terence Williams, Community Program Specialist have taken consultant positions in the Department of Education. Dawn Paxson, Community Program Specialist, will be resigning from state service at the end of the month for personal reasons. The Community Program Section's secretary has also transferred to another state department. This is a significant loss to Early Start. The Department is recruiting to fill the vacant positions.

Barbara Ferreira reported that the next meeting would be at the Embassy Suites in El Segundo, (near the back of Los Angeles Airport) on March 22nd and 23rd. Reservations must be made with her by February 23rd. She requested that all minutes, agendas and action items be sent to her by February 9th.

Anyone not having reservations to Barbara by February 23rd will be responsible for making his or her own reservation. This will be the last time Barbara will be responsible for making and/or canceling hotel room reservations for ICC members and Community Representatives. In the future everyone will be responsible for his or her own hotel room reservations. Hotel room reservations must be made by a specified cutoff date in order to receive the state rate. Barbara will announce the cutoff date at each meeting.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK OF CALIFORNIA (FRCN of CA) REPORT

Patty Moore reported that the FRCN met on Wednesday with a small attendance due to the fact that everyone is gearing up for next month's FRCN training conference. The conference will be held February 26-27, 2001, at the South San Francisco Conference Center. The FRCN has been invited to be a lead partner in the 2004 International Parent to Parent Conference, however, they are not set up in a way that would be feasible to host this type of an affair. The FRCN is asking the various state interagency partners for some buy in to assist in taking on this event. It was decided that Ms. Moore

would prepare a survey to be sent to the ICC members on the feasibility of participating in such a conference.

Ms. Moore reported that the Warm Line FRC received \$35,000 funding from the Prop 10 Commission. The SEA Center was also funded. She reported that there are several FRCs that have submitted requests for Prop 10 funding that are still awaiting notification. The California Deaf/Blind Foundation presented to the group on the ongoing partnerships and linkages serving families and training.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE (PAC)

Elaine Schneider provided a brief committee report. The committee previewed the presentation for today's action item and discussed strategies to make the ICC meeting notices more appealing to families. The development of the Annual Report for the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2000 was also discussed. The newly revised Early Start public service announcement (PSA) was reviewed and presented as part of the committee's report to the ICC. The PSA change incorporates the Early Start logo that was recently modified.

QUALITY ASSURANCE, PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (QAPPS)

Marie Poulsen reported that the committee reviewed the data presented by Ross DiLeo that was gathered from the FRCNs. The FRCNs have made a significant contribution through their high numbers of contacts with families in California. However, the committee members stated that the report did not contain information that was in a meaningful format for them. Discussion was also held about the quality of consistency of data across locations. The committee asked that their March meeting be a joint committee meeting with the Family Support Services Committee. They will also ask Ken Freedlander to attend and provide the following: 1) further clarification of the current FRCN report, 2) a better understanding of Early Start universal data collected and how it relates to FRCN data elements, 3) explain general data collection procedures, and 4) discuss how to report data in meaningful ways. The QAPPS committee concurs with the FRC/N's request for funding from the lead agency for a data collection and reporting mechanism that would include: 1) Assessment of current hardware used by FRC/Ns, 2) Purchase of compatible software for FRCN database, and 3) Training and technical assistance to operationalize data elements and the collection mechanism.

The committee also reviewed CDE's verification process and the Early Start monitoring process. They presented several challenges including: CDE process covers one district and population of birth to 22 in the school system; Early Start places more emphasis on interagency collaboration and the family-professional partnership. The committee feels that there is duplication of efforts within many school districts because of this dual process. The committee is requesting an interim sub-committee meeting with staff

support to explore the feasibility of pulling the birth to three out of the CDE verification process and folding the needed components into the Early Start monitoring process.

Dr. Poulsen reported that Diane Kellegrew Ph.D. OTR, a community representative committee member, who served as the ICC representative on a recent site visit team, provided an update on the monitoring visits. Dr. Kellegrew was very complimentary on the comprehensiveness of the monitoring process and stated how valuable it is for all ICC partners to be involved in the visit to get an understanding of the issues. It is also an opportunity to see some of the real strengths the system has to offer. The committee is recommending that a cadre of parents be trained to participate in the monitoring system with a stipend being paid to them. The dissemination of the monitoring reports was also discussed and how to get maximum use of the information contained in them.

Additional issues for discussion were the follow-up on natural environments, transition, and the personnel model. The committee members who served on the Service Delivery Reform (SDR) Committee re-iterated the importance of following through on the inclusion of the Early Start Personnel Model (ESPM) within the SDR plan to be presented to the full SDR committee in March. A letter has been drafted to Julie Jackson, DDS and Chair of SDR Committee, thanking her for her acknowledgment of the amount of work that has been done on the model and the importance of the ESPM to the SDR process. This letter will also underscore the importance of addressing birth to three through the inclusion of the components of the ESPM within the final SDR recommendations.

HEALTH SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (HSC)

Arleen Downing reported that after review of the HSC minutes on page 83 of the ICC packet, the date of the minutes was corrected from September 28, to November 16, 2000, to reflect the correct date of the meeting. Also, the committee will seek to clarify information stated in their minutes on page 84, as it was questioned whether the option for a family to buy into the benefits of Medi-Cal have remained part of the Family Opportunity Act.

Dr. Downing indicated the committee discussed the Action Item related to revising the ICC agenda. She stated most members preferred a form of Option B and suggested that the ICC meet Thursday on topical issues from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon; the FRCN could meet 1:00 - 4:00, which may be better for families; and then have a guest presentation to the ICC on a special topic from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The ICC committees could meet on Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Dr. Downing reported that the HSC reviewed committee activities over the past year in order to identify unfinished old agenda items and to determine priorities of subsequent agenda. It was agreed that besides determining priority, the committee should look at desired outcomes, know why the agenda item was important, and obtain data relevant to discussing the issue.

Dr. Downing explained how over the past year the HSC has been discussing options for obtaining a child's health status information regarding vision and hearing and how this should be documented on the IFSP. The HSC first addressed this issue in Jan 2000, when Nancy Sager, from CDE's Deaf and Hearing Impaired Unit in the State Special Schools and Services Division, presented information about the Newborn Hearing Screening Program, and they have received updates from DHS. Because there were ongoing developments in this program, the committee at first focused on vision, hoping that what was developed for vision might also be a model for hearing.

In March 2000, HSC began the discussion of vision screening. They discussed how a child's vision was reported on the IFSP and who was qualified to assess the child's vision. The committee's consensus was that every child should have access to an examination by a physician through CHDP or other health programs and every child in Early Start should have an eye exam. Dr. Downing thanked Robin Millar and Julie Kingsley for organizing a flow chart that addressed the timeliness of a child's vision assessments. They also discussed options for obtaining vision information during the intake period and how to document vision information on the IFSP. Methodologies for recognizing urgent eye problems, which might require immediate examination by a physician, were also discussed. The committee has not reached agreement on which screening or assessment methodologies should be used and they will continue to discuss this.

Dr. Downing stated they are addressing who is qualified to conduct vision evaluations and assessments and options for obtaining and providing training to the field on this issue. Options discussed included the state potentially contracting with an appropriate educational resource to develop a training module to be used by Early Start personnel assessing vision status for the initial IFSP. They also discussed the need for adequate support to ensure that vision assessments can be completed by the intake team in the child's natural environment.

At the next meeting HSC will review a model physician letter and process for obtaining and reviewing information regarding the Physician Eye Exam and Vision Assessment for documentation in the IFSP. It is expected that this issue could be used in providing technical assistance or training to regional centers, but will not be brought to the ICC as a formal Action Item.

The HSC briefly discussed the issue regarding eligibility for children with prenatal exposure and infections with HIV and questioned whether a specific advisory technical assistance paper regarding HIV should be developed. The Technical Assistance Paper on Children with Chronic Health Conditions that was accepted by the ICC in January 1999 was reviewed. The HSC recommends that it be forwarded to DDS for dissemination as a technical assistance paper to all Early Start Programs including regional center coordinators, Early Start intake units, SELPAs, regional centers, regional center physicians and nurses, and ARCA. It

is the committee's opinion that this paper address the issue of HIV and other chronic illnesses and would be a helpful evaluation assessment with both the use of clinical opinions and the multi-disciplinary team process to determine an appropriate decision regarding eligibility. Dr. Peterson will prepare a letter to DDS transmitting this paper.

Health related Early Start services and a guide to healthcare were also briefly discussed by the HSC and will be added to the March agenda.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE (FSSC)

Pat Aguiar reported that Cheri Schoenborn attended the committee meeting to discuss the issue of child care and the ICC recommendations on this issue that had been sent to DDS. The committee will work with DDS staff to develop a plan within the existing initiatives around child care to their concerns. There was a presentation regarding Alameda County's Prop 10 and efforts to provide services in natural environments from Kate Warren and Ruth Major. Patty Moore also spoke on the data collection system within the FRCN and the funding needed to maintain it.

Ms. Aguiar reported that an Early Education and Wage Equity Act will be a new bill sponsored by the California Child Development Administrator Association and is authored by Senator Liz Figueroa and Senator Dutra. It would waive income requirements state preschools for children who are in special education. There is no number to the bill at this time, as it has not been introduced.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Fran Chasen reminded everyone of the 10th Annual IDA Conference, April 26-28, 2001 in Los Angeles. She also wanted to acknowledge the passing of Vivian Weinstein, a long time advocate for children and families in many arenas. Ms. Weinstein was very instrumental in the implementation of Early Start in California. Donations in her memory may be made to the Vivian Weinstein Child Advocacy Program, UCLA School of Public Health, P. O. Box 951772, Los Angeles, CA 90095.
2. Janet Eaton from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities brought greetings from the Council Director Judy McDonald and wanted to thank the ICC for the very informative presentation on Foster Care on Thursday. She stated that in the DD Council's 2001 State Plan there are at least four elements where foster care issues could be addressed. They are homes, health, community inclusion and quality. Ms. Eaton will make copies of the plan available for the next ICC mailing. The federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Act of Rights Act (DD Act) was reauthorized and signed by President Clinton on October 30th. The Act is what funds Protection and Advocacy, University Affiliated Programs that are now known as University Centers of Excellence in Disability Research and Services, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Act increased the minimum representation of consumers on

state councils from 50% to 60%. There will be a minimum of four new seats for consumers to be added to California's DD Council. More information can be found on the Council's website www.scdd.ca.gov. Ms. Eaton also stated that the nomination period is now open for the Dr. Albert L. Anderson Award which honors a former council member, mentor and/or leader. Sharon Martin is the new Council Chair. The next full DD Council meeting will be March 20th in Newport Beach.

3. Lois Ryan, MAPP presented a profile on models of inclusive child care.
4. Dr. Peterson summarized a letter from Cathy Geisley regarding problems she experienced with the Regional Center of the East Bay. Dr. Peterson indicated he would forward the letter to DDS.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Recommendations for California Early Start Strategic Plan for Comprehensive Child Find and Public Awareness for (2000-2001):
Elaine Schneider presented the plan. There was a motion and second for its acceptance and transmittal to DDS. It was approved with one abstention. Ms. Schoenborn stated that since this will be submitted to DDS, it is appropriate that she abstain.
2. Revised ICC Agenda
Two additional options were discussed and this issue will be acted upon at the next meeting.

LEAD AGENCY REPORT – DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

Cheri Schoenborn reported that DDS anticipates revising the monitoring schedule due to the staff changes in the Community Program Section. Ken Freedlander is still focusing on those areas with identified non-compliance issues. DDS is still awaiting final approval of California's Continuous Improvement Plan from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). OSEP is still in transition from the change in Administration. We have heard that the proposed changes to the Part C regulations, released for public input in September 2000, may need to be reviewed by the new Administration before they can be finalized.

The Service Delivery Reform Committee will meet on March 15th with a draft report from the workgroups as the major agenda item. Ms. Schoenborn stated she should have more information on this for the March meeting.

On personnel development and training issues, Ms. Schoenborn announced that there will be a Natural Environment Forum in Burbank on March 8 and 9, 2001. She indicated that they are waiving the scholarship maximum this training event to ensure all

interested can attend. Ms. Schoenborn stated that DDS developed a statewide plan for supporting services in natural environments and this training is part of that plan (copy attached). In addition to the training events addressing services in natural environments, DDS revised the Early Start PSA and are also looking at all Early Start public awareness and outreach material to ensure the inclusion of the natural environment theme of providing services in everyday routines, activities and places. The Service Coordinators Institute announcement was disseminated. A Service Coordinator's Handbook supports the curriculum for this training. The IFSP section was previously released and other components of the Handbook will be available for the Service Coordination Institutes. Ms. Schoenborn reported that, to date, \$120,000 has been granted for scholarships and training grants.

The Central Directory is at the Governor's Office and as soon as it is approved it will be disseminated to the field. The Directory will also be available on the DDS web site. Input for the Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 1999-2000 is now due to Cheryl Holden. DDS will also be working on the grant application for Part C funds under federal fiscal year 2001, for access in our state fiscal year of 2002-03.

Ms. Schoenborn provided an overview of the Prop 10 collaboration activities DDS has been involved in at the state level and announced that Kate Warren and Sharon Tettegah have been appointed to the Diversity Advisory Committee under Prop 10's California Children and Families Commission. The Prop 10 Conference will be February 8-9, 2001 in San Diego and Ms. Schoenborn will be a presenter.

Ms. Schoenborn also provided information on the Governor's proposed Budget released in January. DDS is projecting an increase in the regional center's birth to three population from 19,125 to 20,315 which is an increase of 1,190. This will be updated for the May Revision. There is also a proposal for a \$2.6 million increase to regional centers for clinical staff to ensure that evaluations and assessments of children entering Early Start are accomplished within the 45 day timeline.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE)

Wally Olsen reported that five Interagency Agreements will be posted to the CDE website after February 3, 2001. Dr. Olsen will be attending OSEP/NECTAS meeting in Washington, D.C. along with two parents from their SEEDS Project. The CDE, Special Education Division (SED) vacancy hiring process has been progressing and they have filled approximately half of the 30 new consultant positions. The Special Education Director and Administrative Support Unit are moving from the downtown mall location to the Traveler's Hotel at 5th & J Streets as of February 5, 2001. Dr. Olsen also indicated that OSEP is currently visiting California concerning the Part B system. The new special education composite of laws has arrived and copies will be provided to DDS for dissemination to FRCs and Early Start managers in regional centers.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS)

Valerie Charlton provided a copy of the Medically Vulnerable Infant Program Contractors (attached). Dr. Charlton reported that the Childhood Asthma request for

application (RFA) was released and that 20 applications have been received. There are six completed contracts serving the 0-5 population with three treatment programs. She reported that the increased Medi-Cal rates, effective August 1, 2000, impacting California Children Services were for physical therapy, occupational therapy and audiology. Dr. Charlton provided information on "Concern of Obesity in Children" Conference March 19-20, 2001, in San Diego. An update on the Newborn Hearing Screening project will be scheduled for the November 2001 ICC meeting in Sacramento.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

Pat Aguiar stated that she was very pleased with the reception of the presentation on Foster Care Issues to the COTW and will continue to lead the discussion at the next meeting. Ms. Aguiar provided information on the upcoming Child Welfare Services Stakeholders meeting to be held May 10-11, 2001, at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel (attached). The Stakeholders group is divided into the following four sub-committees: Human Resources, Courts, Flexible Funding, and Regulations and Statutes.

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS (DADP)

Gwendolyn Aldridge reported that Kathy Jett had been confirmed as the new director of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. The Department is in the process of implementing Proposition 36, which requires drug treatment instead of prison for first time drug offenders. This is expected to have a significant increase to their workload.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Poulsen reported that she has been appointed to the Little Hoover Commission on Infant Mental Health and their next meeting will be in Sacramento on February 7, 2001.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.